

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of electronically managing payment media in a retail store, the method comprising:

automatically determining the possibility of providing a proposed payment media management solution in response to a payment media processing request; and

providing the proposed payment media management solution, if possible, in response to the request,

wherein the proposed payment media management solution includes one or more of at least a start fund solution, a payment media change dispensing solution, a payment media advance solution, a bank deposit solution, a coupon redemption solution and a payment media acceptance operation solution,

wherein a retail store includes one or more of at least a single store, multiple stores, one or more third party concession stands located within a single store and two or more stores located within a mall.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request is provided by an operator in a retail store.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request is automatically provided by a controller in response to instructions stored on a machine-readable storage medium.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically determining the proposed payment media management solution is performed based on one or more of at least a group of rules stored in a lookup table, instructions provided for a retail store, instructions provided by an entity other than a retail store, and instructions based on real time or substantially real time analysis of payment media activity information that is electronically obtained in a retail store during a predetermined period of time.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the group of rules considers one or more of at least one of retailer type, retailer size, retailer location, type of payment media

originating device where the proposed payment media management solution is to be provided, the specific payment media originating device for which the proposed payment media management solution distribution is requested, time of day for the proposed payment media management solution distribution, calendar date for the proposed payment media management solution distribution, calendar date of national or local holidays, calendar date of scheduled festivities or organized events, and a retail store scheduled sales event.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the payment media activity information comprises electronic point of sale (EPOS) data, payment media refund amount information, frequency and size of payment media refunds processed within a predetermined period of time, payment media information from an automatic teller machine located in a retail store, payment media information from a third party payment media redemption machine located in a retail store, a value of payment media in a retail store, a denomination of payment media in a retail store, media type and payment media pickup or delivery information scheduled by a cash-in-transit operator.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the instructions provided by the entity other than a retail store are provided to a retail store via a communication network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the proposed payment media management solution requires no additional input other than the payment media processing request.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
modifying the proposed payment media management solution based on further input.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 where the further input is from a retail store operator requesting the payment media management solution.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of the proposed payment media management solutions are simultaneously provided for a plurality of operators in a retail store.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more proposed payment media management solutions are provided for at least one payment media originating source.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one payment media originating source comprises one or more of at least a retail till, a retailer back office, a coin redemption device and a third party retail concession.

14. (Original) A machine-readable storage medium that provides instructions for electronically managing payment media in a retail store, the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

automatically determining the possibility of providing a proposed payment media management solution in response to a payment media processing request; and

providing the proposed payment media management solution, if possible, in response to the request,

wherein the proposed payment media management solution includes one or more of at least a start fund solution, a cash change dispensing solution, a cash advance solution, a bank deposit solution, a coupon redemption solution and a payment media acceptance operation solution, wherein

a retail store includes one or more of at least a single store, multiple stores, one or more third party concession stands located within a single store and two or more stores located within a mall.

15. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium according to claim 14, wherein one or more proposed payment media management solutions are provided for at least one payment media originating source.

16. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the at least one payment media originating source comprises one or more of at least a retail till, a retailer back office, a coin redemption device and a third party retail concession.

17. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium according to claim 14, wherein the step of automatically determining the proposed payment media management solution is performed based on one or more of at least a group of rules stored in a lookup table,

instructions provided for a retail store, instructions provided by an entity other than a retail store, and instructions based on real time or substantially real time analysis of payment media activity information that is electronically obtained in a retail store during a predetermined period of time.

18. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the group of rules considers one or more of at least one of retailer type, retailer size, retailer location, type of payment media accepting device where the proposed payment media management solution is to be provided, the specific cash accepting device for which the proposed payment media management solution distribution is requested, time of day for the proposed payment media management solution distribution, calendar date for the proposed payment media management solution distribution, calendar date of national or local holidays, calendar date of scheduled festivities or organized events, and a retail store scheduled sales event.

19. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the payment media activity information comprises electronic point of sale (EPOS) data, payment media refund amount information, frequency and size of payment media refunds processed within a predetermined period of time, payment media information from an automatic teller machine located in a retail store, payment media information from a third party payment media redemption machine located in a retail store, a value of payment media in a retail store, a denomination of payment media in a retail store, media type and payment media pickup or delivery information scheduled by a cash-in-transit operator.

20 (Canceled)

21. (Original) A system for electronically managing payment media in a retail store having one or more payment media accepting devices, comprising a controller that:
automatically determines the possibility of providing a proposed payment media management solution in response to a payment media processing request; and
provides the proposed payment media management solution, if possible, in response to the request,

wherein the proposed payment media management solution includes one or more of at least a start fund solution, a cash change dispensing solution, a cash advance solution, a bank deposit solution, a coupon redemption solution and a payment media acceptance operation solution,

wherein a retail store includes one or more of at least a single store, multiple stores, one or more third party concession stands located within a single store and two or more stores located within a mall.

22-160 (Canceled)